



Expanded Terminal Building—An Improved Gateway to Western Kentucky

Governor Ernie Fletcher and a host of federal, state and local officials today cut the ribbon for a \$920,000 expanded terminal building in Henderson County.

"We must ensure that our aviation infrastructure reflects our unbridled spirit as we utilize airports for economic development," said Governor Ernie Fletcher. "These improvements are essential to industrial recruitment and retention. This expanded and updated facility places Henderson and western Kentucky in a more competitive position in the marketplace."

"The Department of Aviation has a clear mission to improve aviation safety, enhance our existing infrastructure, add new infrastructure where gaps exist and make us more attractive to businesses that are looking to relocate or expand," said Transportation Secretary Bill Nighbert.

"This project is a great example of the partnership between federal, state and local officials," said Congressman Ed Whitfield (R-Hopkinsville). "The federal funding that I've secured for runway and taxiway improvements, coupled with the state's commitment to build the new terminal, will make a big difference in improving operations at the airport."

The Henderson County terminal project, with its 3,200 sq. ft. expansion, began in July 2005. The project also included refurbishing areas of the existing terminal. The major funding sources for the project were the Governor's Office for Local

Development (GOLD)—\$200,000; Kentucky Department of Aviation—\$200,000; Federal Aviation Agency—\$275,000; and the Preston Family Foundation—\$100,000.

Aviation Commissioner Paul Steely said, "This project represents a vital addition to our area transportation infrastructure, which will have a positive impact on economic progress and development in this entire region for many years to come."

"The new terminal is not only very attractive, but is highly functional, providing comfortable and efficient facilities for visitors, highlighted by a first class conference room which will be available for all," stated Airport Board Chairman Richard Wham.

Henderson Mayor Henry Lackey pointed out that visiting government officials and others will get a very favorable first impression of the Henderson area. "This vital first impression will not just be reflective of our airport but will let everyone know that the community and state leadership is progressive and tuned into 21st century awareness of the needs for accelerated economic development."

Henderson County Judge-Executive Sandy Watkins underlined the appeal the new terminal would have to new industry. "We're inviting potential investors to select Henderson County as the location to begin or expand their business," Watkins said. "We are proud to offer this terminal as a gateway to their new business address."